

on the Minutes. MAPLE BAY embraces a considerable extent of territory, some parts being separated from the rest by wide water stretches. The population at present is sparse and scattered, and it will be a dependent mission for years to come; still, the field is worth cultivating, and may, in the end, repay expenditure. WELLINGTON will never be other than it is to-day, a small coal-mining village, with no prospect of growth. If continued in its present relation it will be a dependent field for fifty years to come. It does not afford full work for an invalid, much less for a vigorous man, and yet for years past a missionary—married at that—has spent his time here among a handful of people, drawing the chief part of his support from the Mission Fund, and with very little to do.* The policy that cuts up the work into petty circuits and stations, that never can become self-sustaining, is most unwise, and has resulted disastrously in more than one place in British Columbia. Centralization in a country where there are no populous centres must always be a mistake, resulting in waste of effort and waste of funds. In my judgment, Wellington should at once be united with Nanaimo, from which it is distant only six miles, and a young man should be sent to aid the superintendent of the latter circuit. By this method several outlying settlements could be reached, and a large saving effected in missionary expenditure.

Crossing to the mainland, the first mission is DELTA AND ALMA, beginning at the mouth of the Fraser and extending up the river on the south side for some five and twenty miles. The population is not numerous as yet, but the land, which has been reclaimed from periodical overflow by a system of dykes, is of the richest quality, and when the large tracts now held by individuals are divided into smaller holdings the population will rapidly increase. Within the next decade this should become a strong, self-sustaining circuit. Between Delta mission and the Sumas circuit is MOUNT LEHMAN, as yet without a missionary, but a promising field for pioneer effort. At the District Meeting I strongly urged that this region should be visited regularly from Sumas on the east and Delta on the west, and the two brethren concerned promised it should be done. Perhaps the best plan another year would be to send a young man who would be under the superintendent of Sumas, and then Mount Lehman could be thoroughly worked. At BURRARD INLET, north of the Fraser, we have a small mission as regards appointments and membership—another illustration of the un wisdom of the "cutting-up" policy. The headquarters of the mission is Granville, a small village at Coal Harbor; but as this point has been selected by the Canadian Pacific Syndicate as the terminus of their road, it is quite within the possibilities that a large city will rapidly spring up, and become, if carefully worked, an important Methodist centre. MAPLE RIDGE, some twelve or fourteen miles above New Westminster, on the same side

* In justice to the present missionary it should be said that he visits one or two outlying settlements.

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